

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1838

To amend the Small Business Act to modify certain provisions relating to women's business centers, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To amend the Small Business Act to modify certain provisions relating to women's business centers, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. NOTIFICATION OF GRANTS; PUBLICATION OF**
4 **GRANT AMOUNTS.**

5 Section 29 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656)
6 is amended by adding the following new subsection at the
7 end thereof:

8 “(o) NOTIFICATION OF GRANTS; PUBLICATION OF
9 GRANT AMOUNTS.—The Administrator shall disburse
10 funds to a women's business center not later than one

1 month after the center's application is approved under this
2 section. At the end of each fiscal year the Administrator
3 (acting through the Office of Women's Business owner-
4 ship) shall publish on the Administration's website a re-
5 port setting forth the total amount of the grants made
6 under this Act to each women's business center in the fis-
7 cal year for which the report is issued, the total amount
8 of such grants made in each prior fiscal year to each such
9 center, and the total amount of private matching funds
10 provided by each such center over the lifetime of the cen-
11 ter."

12 **SEC. 2. COMMUNICATIONS.**

13 Section 29 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.
14 656), as amended, is further amended by adding the fol-
15 lowing new subsection at the end thereof:

16 "(p) COMMUNICATIONS.—The Administrator shall
17 establish, by rule, a standardized process to communicate
18 with women's business centers regarding program admin-
19 istration matters, including reimbursement, regulatory
20 matters, and programmatic changes. The Administrator
21 shall notify each women's business center of the oppor-
22 tunity for notice and comment on the proposed rule."

23 **SEC. 3 FUNDING.**

24 (a) FORMULA.—Section 29(b) of the Small Business
25 Act (15 U.S.C. 656(b)) is amended to read as follows:

1 “(b) AUTHORITY.—

2 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may
3 provide financial assistance to private nonprofit or-
4 ganizations to conduct projects for the benefit of
5 small business concerns owned and controlled by
6 women. The projects shall provide—

7 “(A) financial assistance, including train-
8 ing and counseling in how to apply for and se-
9 cure business credit and investment capital,
10 preparing and presenting financial statements,
11 and managing cash flow and other financial op-
12 erations of a business concern;

13 “(B) management assistance, including
14 training and counseling in how to plan, orga-
15 nize, staff, direct, and control each major activ-
16 ity and function of a small business concern;
17 and

18 “(C) marketing assistance, including train-
19 ing and counseling in identifying and seg-
20 menting domestic and international market op-
21 portunities, preparing and executing marketing
22 plans, developing pricing strategies, locating
23 contract opportunities, negotiating contracts,
24 and utilizing varying public relations and adver-
25 tising techniques.

1 “(2) TIERS.—The Administrator shall provide
2 assistance under paragraph (1) in 3 tiers of assist-
3 ance as follows:

4 “(A) The first tier shall be to conduct a 5-
5 year project in a situation where a project has
6 not previously been conducted. Such a project
7 shall be in a total amount of not more than
8 \$150,000 per year.

9 “(B) The second tier shall be to conduct a
10 3-year project in a situation where a first-tier
11 project is being completed. Such a project shall
12 be in a total amount of not more than
13 \$100,000 per year.

14 “(C) The third tier shall be to conduct a
15 3-year project in a situation where a second-tier
16 project is being completed. Such a project shall
17 be in a total amount of not more than
18 \$100,000 per year. Third-tier grants shall be
19 renewable subject to established eligibility cri-
20 teria as well as criteria in subsection (b)(4).

21 “(3) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—Of the amounts
22 made available for assistance under this subsection,
23 the Administrator shall allocate—

24 “(A) at least 40 percent for first-tier
25 projects under paragraph (2)(A);

1 “(B) 20 percent for second-tier projects
2 under paragraph (2)(B); and

3 “(C) the remainder for third-tier projects
4 under paragraph (2)(C).

5 “(4) BENCHMARKS FOR THIRD-TIER
6 PROJECTS.—In awarding third-tier projects under
7 paragraph (2)(C), the Administrator shall use
8 benchmarks based on socio-economic factors in the
9 community and on the performance of the applicant.
10 The benchmarks shall include—

11 “(A) the total number of women served by
12 the project;

13 “(B) the proportion of low income women
14 and socio-economic distribution of clients served
15 by the project;

16 “(C) the proportion of individuals in the
17 community that are socially or economically dis-
18 advantaged (based on median income);

19 “(D) the future fund-raising and service
20 coordination plans;

21 “(E) the diversity of services provided; and

22 “(F) geographic distribution within and
23 across the 10 regions of the Small Business Ad-
24 ministration.”.

1 (b) MATCHING.—Subparagraphs (A) and (B) of sec-
2 tion 29(e)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.
3 656(e)(1)) are amended to read as follows:

4 “(A) For the first and second years of the
5 project, 1 non-Federal dollar for each 2 Federal
6 dollars.

7 “(B) Each year after the second year of
8 the project—

9 “(i) 1 non-Federal dollar for each
10 Federal dollar; or

11 “(ii) if the center is in a community
12 at least 50 percent of the population of
13 which is below the median income for the
14 State or United States territory in which
15 the center is located, 1 non-Federal dollar
16 for each 2 Federal dollars.”.

17 (c) AUTHORIZATION.—Section 20 of the Small Busi-
18 ness Act (15 U.S.C. 631 note) is amended by inserting
19 the following new subsection after subsection (c):

20 “(f) WOMEN’S BUSINESS CENTERS.—There is au-
21 thorized to be appropriated for purposes of grants under
22 section 29 to women’s business centers not more than
23 \$20,000,000 in fiscal year 2010 and not more than
24 \$22,000,000 in fiscal year 2011.”.

1 **SEC. 4. PERFORMANCE AND PLANNING.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 29(h)(1) of the Small
3 Business Act (15 U.S. C. 656(h)(1)) is amended by strik-
4 ing the “and” at the end of subparagraph (A), redesignig-
5 nating subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (D), and in-
6 serting the following new subparagraphs after subpara-
7 graph (A):

8 “(B) establish performance measures, tak-
9 ing into account the demographic differences of
10 populations served by women’s business centers,
11 which measures shall include—

12 “(i) outcome-based measures of the
13 amount of job creation or economic activity
14 generated in the local community as a re-
15 sult of efforts made and services provided
16 by each women’s business center, and

17 “(ii) service-based measures of the
18 amount of services provided to individuals
19 and small business concerns served by each
20 women’s business center;

21 “(C) require each women’s business center
22 to submit an annual plan for the next year that
23 includes the center’s funding sources and
24 amounts, strategies for increasing outreach to
25 women-owned businesses, strategies for increas-
26 ing job growth in the community, and other

1 content as determined by the Administrator;
2 and”.

3 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 29(h)(1) of
4 the Small Business Act (15 U.S. C. 656(h)(1)), as amend-
5 ed, is further amended by adding the following at the end
6 thereof:

7 “The Administrator’s evaluation of each women’s
8 business center as required by this subsection shall
9 be in part based on the performance measures under
10 subparagraphs (B) and (C). These measures and the
11 Administrator’s evaluations thereof shall be made
12 publicly available.”.

13 **SEC. 5. NATIONAL WOMEN’S BUSINESS COUNCIL.**

14 The Women’s Business Ownership Act of 1988 is
15 amended as follows:

16 (1) In section 409(a) (15 U.S.C. 7109(a)), add
17 the following at the end thereof: “Such studies shall
18 include a study on the impact of the 2008-2009 fi-
19 nancial markets crisis on women-owned businesses,
20 and a study of the use of the Small Business Admin-
21 istration’s programs by women-owned businesses.”.

22 (2) In section 410(a) (15 U.S.C. 7110(a)),
23 strike out “2001 through 2003” and insert “2010
24 and 2011”.